

CS 97-55

WILLIAM G. ARMSTRONG

(314) 727-0782

ATTORNEY AT LAW
7229 KINGSBURY BOULEVARD
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63130

PRACTICE LIMITED

February 25 1997

Mr. Reed E. Hundt, Chair
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D. C.

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MAR 24 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hundt:

In my opinion, our local television stations are not complying with the standards for prime time programs by showing previews of movies to be shown later. The movies to be shown do not have a rating suitable for prime time. The previews show the most violent and sexy scenes in the movie. Even though the preview may be only ten seconds, the fact remains that the content of the preview does not meet prime time standards.

For example, Channel 05 in St. Louis showed a preview during the Wheel of Fortune program in which guns were fired and an actress thrown to the ground. This was the day after the jury verdict in the Simpson case and the preview of violence toward women went exactly contrary to the lesson hopefully learned by the Simpson case.

There is no warning that the preview is coming. The rating for the movie is shown at the end of the preview. The preview does not contain any moral lesson that may or may not be in the movie. Families have no opportunity to protect their children from seeing the violence and sex in a preview nor tune it out for their own benefit.

In the newspaper articles on standards for television, I have not seen any exception for previews. It should be called to the attention of the industry that there is no exception for previews and the content of previews of movies must meet the same standards as all programs suitable for the time of day in which they are shown.

Yours truly,


William G. Armstrong

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of General Counsel

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Chairman Hundt

We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's ratings system.

The National Association for Family & Community Education and its affiliate, Louisiana State Association, are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are very concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television ratings system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based television ratings system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Sincerely,

Maureen B. Felder
Vice President for Public Policy
La FCE
14195 Jones Rd.
Ponchartraine, La. 70454

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FEBRUARY 24, 1997

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Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

MR. REED HUNDT
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M. STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

DEAR MR. HUNDT:

I AM WRITING ASKING THAT THE NEW RATING SYSTEM BE REJECTED AS IT NOW STANDS.

UNDER THE PRETENSE OF PROVIDING HELP TO PARENTS, THE INDUSTRY HAS DONE THE OPPOSITE. THEY TELL PARENTS THAT ALL PROGRAMS RATED TV-Y, TV-7, TV-G, TV-PG, AND TV-14, REGARDLESS OF CONTENT OR THEME, ARE SUITABLE FOR KIDS AND YOUTH.....AND GET THIS~~~THE PERSON WHO PRODUCES THE PROGRAM IS THE ONE WHO RATES IT! NO INPUT FROM THE VIEWING PUBLIC IS ALLOWED. THERE WILL BE NO CONSISTENT PERSPECTIVE USED IN THE RATINGS SINCE HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS WILL BE DOING THE RATINGS BASED ON THEIR OWN INTEREST.

PLEASE REJECT THE RATINGS AS THEY NOW STAND.

SINCERELY YOURS,

Wm. A. Don John Schimpff

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FEBRUARY 24, 1997

MAR 4 1997

MR. REED HUNDT
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M. STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

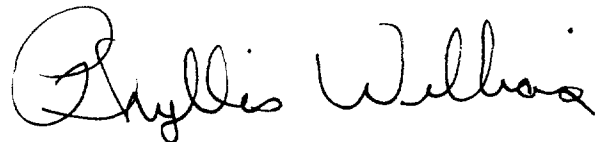
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PLEASE REJECT THE RATINGS AS THEY NOW STAND.

SINCERELY YOURS,



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March 6, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

MAR 24 1997

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Missouri PTA to voice my opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, U.S. News and World Rept, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

The FCC, by law, is required to determine whether the industry's rating system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. I do not believe this system does so and ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead, we request the following:

... That under no circumstances should the FCC approve the industry's rating system. Further, the FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs such as V (for violence), S (for sexual depiction and nudity) and L (for language);

... That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to receive more than one rating system;

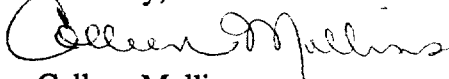
... That the rating icon on the TV screen be made larger, more prominently placed on the screen, and appear more frequently during the course of a program;

... That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents; and

... That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,



Colleen Mullins
12131 Diane Marie Dr., Maryland Hghts., MO 63043

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MAR 24 1997

Julia Cox
c/o Frost Middle School
4101 Pickett Rd.
Fairfax, VA 22032

Dear Sir or Madame:

It has come to my attention that the new t.v. ratings seem to be used more for the station's advertising than for parents to check what it is that their children watch. I think that the rating system should be placed in the t.v. guide instead of on the t.v. screen. I do think, however, that the rating system is a very good idea. It gives parents a chance to see whether or not the programs that their children watch are appropriate. Thank you for your time and I hope you will take my idea into consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Cox

Julie Cox

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9703019

From: kpnb@voyager.net <kpnb@voyager.net>
 To: A4.A4(fccinfo)
 Date: 2/27/97 9:08pm
 Subject: TV ratings

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I'm concerned that the TV ratings don't reflect the content of the commercials aired. We were recently watching Jeopardy (rated TV-G), and saw graphic scenes from an R rated theater movie. Is there a standard for commercials that requires (encourages) they be rated no worse than the TV show they're aired with?

Peg Beutler

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MAR 2 4 1997

Federal Communications Commission
 Office of Secretary

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CS 97-55

The Honorable Reed Hendt, Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Dear Honorable Mr. Hendt:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the age-based TV rating system. I believe that a content-based system where viewing choice can be made based on specific information would be a more valuable tool to parents. It is my understanding that the National PTA recently did a survey that showed 80% of parents favored a content-based system (compared to 20% for an age-based system).

A content-based rating system would also give parents the right to judge what material is acceptable for their children rather than leave that choice to the television industry. As parents, that is a "right" that we are entitled to and the fact that the television industry has taken the liberty to decide what is appropriate content for our children to view is wrong. There are different standards of suitability for children which are a part of each family. The content-based system would allow each family unit select programs based on their own individual standards. It is also my understanding that 17 out of 18 of the nation's leading children's experts judge the age-based system inadequate, while it is almost unanimous that content should be an essential aspect of a rating system. How can one really think that the television industry can objectively rate themselves? After all, is not their prime concern ratings?

Also, the "family hour" needs to be restored!

I thank you for your time in reading this letter and giving consideration to this, and I'm sure, many other requests for change in the rating system.

Sincerely,

Hope M. Pichura

Hope M. Pichura
315 Fairview St.
Johnson City, NY 13790-1475

February 28, 1997

/p

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0597-22



872 Havendale Dr.
Columbus, Oh 4322
February 25, 1997

COLUMBUS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RIDGEVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL
4241 Rudy Road
Columbus, Ohio 43214
614/365-5506

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MAR 24 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

Chairman of the Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Chairman:

I'm writing you concerning the new system of the television ratings.

I think it is a good system. It helps the viewers to know what they can expect from the program. Also, it can help the viewer or viewers to see if the program is appropriate for them or their children.

Some people may think that it is a waste of time to put television ratings on the television screen, but others will disagree. I know a lot of people and parents who think the system is helpful for them and their children. It helps them make the right decisions for what their children can watch.

It is a good that people and the F.C.C. has come up with this idea and has made different ratings to go along with the television programs. I hope that the ratings will become a success. Thank you for your time.

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Sincerely,
Stephanie Buening
Stephanie Buening

CONNIE WILLIAMS

764 Wakendaw Blvd
Mt. Pleasant, S.C. 29464

Telephone 803-881-1122
Fax 803-881-8919

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MAR 24 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20541

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554
CS Docket No. 97-55

Dear Mr. Hundt,

Please change the current television rating system *from* the age-based to a content-based rating system. The television industry representatives came up with this present system. Lets "fine tune" it into the trash where it belongs. Let the parents have their choice. A content-based rating system was favored 5-to1 by parents in a PTA study.

You wonder why our kids are having such problems? Cut on the TV and you will see the influences of violence, sex and bad language being lived out before your eyes during the supposed "family hour". Under the present rating system, designed by those who produce all of the TV trash, it is impossible to know the exact content of the show. Parents differ as to what they allow at certain ages. Some parents are lax and some parents are strict. Some children are immature and some are mature. **That is why we want a content based guide.**

If there were no relationship between seeing and doing, we would have no advertisers. Children act our what they see. Wake up smell the coffee and restore the "family hour" with a content based guide.

Sincerely yours,



Connie Williams

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NAFCE
National Association For
Family & Community Education

CS 97-55

MAR 24 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Rm B14

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February, 1997

The Honorable Ed. Rubelzki
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Rubelzki:

We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's ratings system.

The National Association for Family & Community Education and its affiliate, Virginia State Association, are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are very concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television ratings system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based television ratings system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Sincerely,

Marie C. Pfaff

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FEB 31 4 45 PM '97

AM 10:00 AM



NAFCE Headquarters • P.O. Box 835 • 5963 Jefferson St. • Burlington, KY 41005-0835 • Tel: 606-586-9333 • Fax: 606-586-8148

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Federal Communications Commission

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MR. REED HUNDT
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M. STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

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DEAR MR. HUNDT:

I AM WRITING ASKING THAT THE NEW RATING SYSTEM BE REJECTED AS IT NOW STANDS.

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PLEASE REJECT THE RATINGS AS THEY NOW STAND.

SINCERELY YOURS,

Larry & Denise Owen

1

CS 97-53

11112

The North Carolina
Extension Homemakers Association, Inc.

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February 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

MAR 24 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Hundt:

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The National Association for Family and Community Education and its affiliate, North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association, are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television rating system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based television rating system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Sincerely, Theresa Henson

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

February, 1997

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Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Hundt, Chairman

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Sincerely,

Edward F + Jennie Guinoz
222-1251
Guinoz, Az 85364-3938

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CS 97-55

WILLIAM G. ARMSTRONG

(314) 727-0782

ATTORNEY AT LAW
7229 KINGSBURY BOULEVARD
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63130

PRACTICE LIMITED

February 25 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Mr. Reed E. Hundt, Chair
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D. C.

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MAR 24 1997
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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For example, Channel 05 in St. Louis showed a preview during the Wheel of Fortune program in which guns were fired and an actress thrown to the ground. This was the day after the jury verdict in the Simpson case and the preview of violence toward women went exactly contrary to the lesson hopefully learned by the Simpson case.

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Ponchartraine, La. 70454

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

MR. REED HUNDT
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M. STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

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I AM WRITING ASKING THAT THE NEW RATING SYSTEM BE REJECTED AS IT NOW STANDS.

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PLEASE REJECT THE RATINGS AS THEY NOW STAND.

SINCERELY YOURS,

Mr. & Mrs. John Schimpf

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1919 M. STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

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March 6, 1997

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c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

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... That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to receive more than one rating system;

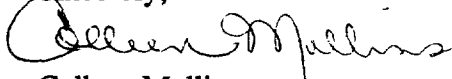
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Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,



Colleen Mullins
12131 Diane Marie Dr., Maryland Hghts., MO 63043

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CS 97-55

HIGHLAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

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DAVID E. BOULER, D.Min., Ph.D.
Pastor

February 6, 1997

Dear Chairman:

This is a brief letter to let you know of my concern about the sexuality that oozes from television programs and commercials. We are sending mixed messages to our children when we encourage them to consider the responsibility and disease in extramarital affairs yet feed them as much sexual material as possible.

This effort to increase ratings hurts our children and may even be linked to the increase in teen pregnancy, extramarital affairs, sexually transmitted diseases, abortions, rape, and other problems we face. The "V-chip" is no substitute for enforcing the indecency law. We must enforce the rules in relation to indecency shown on television.

I appreciate your time and thank you for reading this letter. I am praying for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tony Raffa'.

Tony Raffa
Isaiah 6:8

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THE CARING PLACE

1907 BAILEY AVENUE • CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37404 • 423/493-4111

CS 97-55

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SEP 24 1997

Dear Mr. Hundt February 13, 1997

United States of America is at risk;
we do not need the Communists or the Mafia
to undermine us. We're doing it to ourselves
because the FCC does not enforce broad-
cast ~~indecent~~ indecency laws. The past
failure of the FCC to enforce the Federal
broadcast indecency law against TV
stations is a primary reason why so
much TV programming offends all
Americans. The Government of U.S.A. has a
valid reason in protecting all Americans -
both adults and children - from indecent
programming. In the words of the Supreme Court,
there is "a right of the Nation..... to main-
tain a decent society." With the down
of the V chip (which will prove to be a
failure in time) the FCC must reject the
flawed rating proposal from the Motion
Picture Association of America (MPAA) and
substitute instead a system that rates
programming by content, as parents and
adults demand. Don't let the fox into the
chicken coop.

Sincerely
Joseph Jackson

Mr Joseph Jackson
233 Mountain Ave
New Providence, NJ 07974-2633

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CS 97-55

Dear Mr. Handt,

2011-27
2011-27
Thank you for rating TV programs, but unfortunately this age based system is not effective as a parent. Each family as parents know their children as individuals & also have different beliefs on viewing. Instead of an age rating system, let the viewer decide by a system which identifies sex, violence & language. Thank you.

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Sincerely,
Sharon Teeter RN
Putman Teeter

Declarations



We have no government armed
with power capable of contending
with human passions unbridled
by morality and religion...

John Adams

GINAL

2 AUG 57
Dear Mr. [unclear]
I am writing you from the U.S. I have the
right to express my opinion on the matter that seems
to be of such importance to you. It is a television
communication. A V-chip alone cannot ward
off the tide that is coming into all of our homes
with indecent programming.

If I understand correctly, the Broadcast Indecen-
cy Law is intended to protect our children
and the privacy of our home, where the citizen's
right to be left alone by far outweighs the
First Amendment rights of an intruder.

I am appealing to you to not to allow
the V-chip or the new TV rating system to be
replaced as an excuse not to enforce
the Indecency Law.

Please advise me of your
actions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

M. Linda Taylor

February 13, 1997

CS97-55

Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask the FCC to change its policy and enforce the broadcast indecency law against TV stations which broadcast indecent programs.

Also, I object to the new TV rating system proposed by the Motion Picture Ass'n. It does not inform parents of the content of the program, as parents desire. The rating is shown on the screen for only a few seconds at the beginning of the program, so is easy to miss. It needs to be shown throughout the program. If TV would clean up its act, we wouldn't need ratings!

I urge you to do whatever you can to change this situation.

Mary J. Miller

1433 N 12th St

Cambridge, Oh 43725-1011

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February 13, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

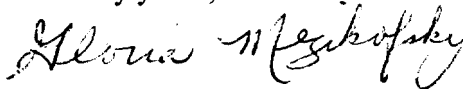
Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing to request a change in your policy and look forward to your enforcement of the broadcast indecency laws against TV stations.

Also, I would appreciate it if your commission rejected the Motion Picture Association's rating proposal; instead, select a system that rates programming by content.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Gloria Mezikofsky
5 Scott Lane
Wakefield, MA 01880

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